

December 11, 1849.

R. C. Griffith, Esq., in the Chair.

The Secretary stated that he had the pleasure of announcing the probability of the Society's success in an object to which he had devoted a considerable share of his attention, which the Council had frequently considered, and towards which all previous efforts had been rendered fruitless by the magnitude of the difficulties by which it is surrounded. He then proceeded to read the following extracts from a letter addressed to him by the Hon. C. A. Murray, dated Cairo, Nov. 16, 1849:—

“It is with the greatest satisfaction that I communicate to you the intelligence that I have succeeded in obtaining for the Society a live HIPPOPOTAMUS! It is now in a yard at the back of my house, and apparently in perfect health; you cannot be more anxious than I am that I may be able to keep it through the winter and send it to you safe in spring. It is only five or six months old *, and still lives entirely on milk; I think a fresh importation of cows will be necessary in Cairo, as our little monster takes about thirty quarts of milk daily for his share already. H. H. Abbas Pasha has been most liberal in having the animal brought here at his own expense from the White Nile. A lieutenant and a party of ten Nubian soldiers formed his escort; a boat was built on purpose for him; and the vice-roy sent him to my house in charge of the chief officer of his palace. I may also mention that by H. H. orders, another officer with a party of soldiers is still out on the White Nile, charged with the duty of securing a young female for us, so that I am not without hope of sending you the pair together.”

Five days afterwards, on the 21st of November, Mr. Murray writes:—

“The Hippopotamus is quite well, and the delight of every one who sees him. He is as tame and playful as a Newfoundland puppy; knows his keepers, and follows them all over the courtyard; in short, if he continues gentle and intelligent as he promises to be, he will be the most attractive object ever seen in our Garden, and may be taught all the tricks usually performed by the elephant.”

In addition to the preceding correspondence, the Secretary stated that he had received a most interesting letter from Mr. Duncan, the well-known African traveller, now bearing the appointment of H. M. Vice-Consul at Whydah. The letter was dated from the British fort, and dated Sept. 14, 1849:—

“I have the honour to inform you that I started from Whydah on the 24th of August, and arrived at Abamey, the capital of the kingdom of Dahomey, on the 30th, when I and my friends met with a very cordial reception. I was allowed two days to prepare the presents sent by the British government to the king of this country.

* Mammalia, Pl. XIV.

On the 2nd of September we delivered these presents, and also the pea-fowls sent by the Zoological Society. On the following day I was honoured by an interview with the king, who received me in the same cordial manner as before. I read to him your letter, which was interpreted as I read: he is much pleased with the birds, which were turned out and fed in his presence. I explained to him the reason of their being without tails, and showed him a picture of the bird in full plumage. He asked a great many questions respecting the Society, and requested me to read over a number of members' names from the list with which you furnished me. As soon as I mentioned Lord Palmerston's name, the king readily recognised it.

"In reply to your letter, the king promises to catch you elephants, and he suggested to me that it is always necessary to kill the old one to secure the young. He says that his female soldiers have caught many, but never kept them alive. If they are bound with ropes they surely die: the king thinks the only way to secure one is to have a large cage made, of great strength, and carried to the immediate vicinity of the elephants' track, so that the young elephant may be placed in it as soon as captured, and at once conveyed to Whydah.

"I have asked for several other animals, which have also been promised to me. I am, thank God, in excellent health, as well as my companions."

The following papers were read:—

1. DESCRIPTION OF A NEW GENUS AND SEVERAL NEW SPECIES OF TERRESTRIAL, FLUVIATILE AND MARINE MOLLUSCOUS ANIMALS INHABITING NEW ZEALAND. BY J. E. GRAY, ESQ., F.R.S., PRESIDENT OF THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY, ETC.

Major Greenwood has most kindly transmitted to me, for the Museum Collection, a number of small species of terrestrial and fluviatile Mollusca which he had collected near Auckland in New Zealand.

I hasten to lay before the Society a description of those which were not noticed in the Faunula attached to Dr. Dieffenbach's Travels.

1. ARDONIDÆ.

1. NANINA? KIVI, *Gray, Fauna N. Z.* 262. n. 220.
Hab. Auckland; *Major Greenwood.*

2. NANINA MARIÆ, *Gray, Fauna N. Z.* 262. n. 221.
Hab. Auckland; *Major Greenwood.*

These species were each described from a single specimen; Major Greenwood has sent one of the former and several of the latter, of different ages, and they prove very distinct and well-marked species.

3. NANINA? CELINDE.

Shell rather depressed, pale brown; spire subconic; whorls five, rather closely adpressed, with transverse membranaceous ridges, the last slightly keeled, convex in front; axis with a narrow deep perfo-

ration; peristome with a very slightly thickened internal submarginal rib. Diam. 2 lines.

Hab. Auckland.

4. NANINA ERIGONE.

Shell trochiform, pellucid, brown-spotted; spire conical, as high as broad, apex blunt; whorls rather convex, very slightly concentrically wrinkled, brown, cross-banded, last rounded, evenly convex in front, axis with a narrow deep perforation; peristome rather reflexed near the axis. Diam. $\frac{1}{12}$ th of an inch.

Hab. Auckland, New Zealand; *Major Greenwood.*

5. NANINA TULLIA.

Shell depressed, pellucid, whitish; spire scarcely raised, with close-pressed, rather convex, transversely-grooved whorls, crossed with pale brown streaks; the last whorl rounded, convex in front, and crossed with brown lines and distinct cross-grooves; axis imperforated. Diam. $\frac{1}{9}$ th of an inch.

Hab. Auckland, New Zealand.

2. LIMACIDÆ.

1. *HELIX DUNNIÆ*, Gray, *Ann. Nat. Hist.* v. 317, 1841; *Faunula N. Z.* 247. n. 143. Named in honour of Mrs. Dunn, a relative of Mr. Joshua Alder, from whom I received the first land-shell from New Zealand.

2. *HELIX GREENWOODII.*

Shell rather depressed, largely umbilicated, pale brown, thin, pellucid, rugose; spire slightly raised, outer whorl rounded, with three or four rather oblique ridges directed towards the front; umbilicus very large, conical, wide, deep, the pillar side of the outer lip straight and high.

Hab. Auckland, New Zealand; *Major Greenwood.*

This species is very like *Helix Dunningi* in size, colour and form, but the outer whorl is rounded, and with some very peculiar oblique ridges on the outer periphery; the umbilicus is much larger; the pillar-lip, as high as the confines of the umbilicus, is straight, and not arched, as in that species.

I have great pleasure in dedicating it to Major Greenwood, who has so kindly enabled me to add the above genus, and this and the following species, to the New Zealand Fauna.

3. *HELIX (CAROCOLLA) ZELANDIÆ*, Gray, *Faun. N. Z.* 247. n. 144 and 262.

Hab. Auckland.

4. *HELIX PORTIA.*

Shell rather depressed; spire convex, rounded, pale brown; whorls five or six, rather close-pressed, rather convex, crossed with close concentric laminal ridges, edged with elongated hairs, and marked with rather dark brown cross-bands; last whorl rounded, convex in front;

axis with a rather narrow deep umbilicus; mouth rather wide, peristome thin, slightly reflexed near the axis, and rather sinuous near the suture of the spire. Diam. $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of an inch.

Hab. Auckland; *Major Greenwood and Dr. Sinclair.*

5. HELIX IDE.

Shell depressed, pellucid, whitish, brown rayed; spire flat or rather sunk in the middle whorl, close-pressed, convex, with rather distant very slight spiral membranaceous ridges, and larger and more distinct membranaceous cross-ridges, fringed on the edge with hair-like elongations; last whorl rounded externally in front, slightly flattened near the axis; axis large, umbilicated, showing the volutions. Diam. $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch.

Hab. Auckland.

6. HELIX (ZONITES) COMA, Gray, *Fauna N. Z.* 263. n. 224.

Hab. Auckland (abundant); *Major Greenwood.*

7. HELIX EGESTA.

Shell depressed, dark brown; spire scarcely raised, at length irregular and rather distorted; whorls subcylindrical, regularly and closely spirally grooved, with rather distant, thick, broad, membranous cross-ridges; last whorl subcylindrical, often twisted rather in front of the regular course, rounded externally and in front, and closely spirally grooved in front; axis widely umbilicated, showing all the whorls. Diam. $\frac{1}{6}$ th of an inch.

Hab. Auckland; *Dr. Sinclair and Major Greenwood.*

8. ZONITES CHIRON.

Shell depressed, dark olive-green, covered with a thick, polished periostraca, and crossed with rather sinuous, concentric, membranous ridges; spire rather convex, rounded; whorls rather convex, last spread out, rounded on the edge and convex in front; axis widely umbilicated, showing the lower whorls; mouth roundish, sublunate; peristome thin, outer lip rather expanded behind, and separated from the penultimate whorl by a slight notch. Diam. $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch.

Hab. Auckland; *Major Greenwood.*

The upper surface resembles a miniature *Helix Busbyi*, but the under surface is very different.

9. ZONITES? CORESIA.

Shell depressed, dark olive-green, with brown cross-bands covered with a thick, smooth, polished periostraca; spire scarcely raised, rather convex; whorls convex, last expanded, rounded on the edge and in front; axis broadly umbilicated, showing all the whorls; mouth roundish, sublunate; peristome thin, with the periostraca inflexed when dry. Diam. $\frac{1}{6}$ th of an inch.

Hab. Auckland, New Zealand.

This shell is exactly like a very minute specimen of *Helix Busbyi*. It differs from the former, *Z. Chiron*, in being smaller, more depressed, and in the umbilicus being much wider, showing the front side of the upper whorls, which appear rather transverse.

10. *BULIMUS?* (*LAOMA*) *LEIMONIAS*.

Shell trochiform, polished, brown-spotted; spire conical, rather higher than broad, apex obtuse; whorls very slightly convex, polished, with one or two slightly sunk lines on the front half; last whorl with a distinct rib-like keel on the front edge; two spiral grooves on front half outer side; the side flattened with several small concentric grooves; axis minutely and deeply perforated; mouth square; peristome simple, slightly reflexed near the axis; the throat with three equal, well-marked spiral ridges, one on the outer side of the posterior, and another opposite to it on the outer side of the front lip, and one on the middle of the right side or outer edge of the last whorl. Diam. $\frac{1}{12}$ th of an inch.

Hab. Auckland; *Major Greenwood*.

I am inclined to regard this shell as the type of a particular subgenus of shell which may be characterized by the simple peristome, the perforated axis, the square mouth, and the spiral ridges in the throat; but I have only seen a single specimen, and it may be, though I regard it as very improbable, the young state of a *Pupa* or *Vertigo*. If it prove distinct, it may be called *Laoma*.

AURICULIDÆ?

ELASMATINA RECLUSIANA, *Petit, Proc. Zool. Soc.* 184 .

Hab. Auckland, New Zealand; *Major Greenwood*.

M. Petit described this specimen from the island of Opara in the South Seas.

CYCLOSTOMIDÆ.

REALIA EGÆA.

Shell ovate, pale brown, covered with a dull brown periostraca marked with elevated, transverse, membranaceous ridges rather fringed on the edge; apex rounded; whorls convex, rounded in front, and with a deep brown band round the axis; axis scarcely perforated; mouth ovate; peristome reflexed, sharp-edged, with a thin, sharp-edged, slightly-raised internal peristome. Length $2\frac{1}{2}$ lines.

Hab. Auckland, New Zealand.

CYCLOPHORUS CYTORA. *Bz. 1953.*

Shell minute, trochiform, brown, closely and uniformly spirally striated and slightly concentrically wrinkled; apex subacute; spire conical, nearly as high as broad; whorls convex, the last rounded and convex in front; axis perforated; mouth subcircular; peristome scarcely reflexed, thickened internally; ?operculum horny, of a few rapidly enlarging whorls. Diam. $\frac{1}{10}$ th of an inch.

Hab. Auckland, New Zealand; *Major Greenwood*.

LYMNEADÆ.

PLANORBIS CORINNA.

Shell depressed, white, above flat, beneath rather concave; whorls convex, rounded.

Hab. Auckland, New Zealand.

This species is very like the European *P. albus*, but not spirally striated.

The most interesting of these shells is a new genus, which appears to belong to the family *Lymneadæ*, and allied to the genus *Ancylus*, but to be immediately distinguished from it by the shell possessing a thin lamina on the hinder edge of the cavity, most probably extended between the upper part of the body and the upper edge of the foot, as is the case in *Crepidula*. It is easily to be distinguished from the latter genus by the posterior plate having its edge bent suddenly down towards the base of the aperture and enlarged at the front part of the right side, and produced into a lobe having a groove between it and the inner surface of the right side of the shell. This character also separates it from *Navicella*.

The genus may be thus characterized :—

LATIA.

Shell half ovate, spiral, of one or two very rapidly enlarging whorls ; spire very short, placed nearly in the centre rather on the left of the hinder edge ; aperture very large, nearly occupying the whole of the shell, oblong, rather oblique ; cavity simple, hinder edge with a thin, narrow, flat, horizontal lamina occupying the hinder and nearly half the length of the left side of the cavity ; the left and hinder edge suddenly bent down towards the base of the shell, and produced into a rather broad expansion at the right side, leaving a rather broad space between it and the inner part of the right side of the aperture ; periostraca thin, pale brown, spirally striated.

Animal.—Head with a short broad snout, rounded in front ; tentacula two, short, triangular, the eyes on the outer side of their base ; body subspiral ; mantle submarginal, continued all round ; edge simple ; aperture of the respiratory cavity on the hinder part of the right side, protected on the inner side by the process of the lamina ; upper part of the body subspiral, separate from the back of the foot and fitting into the upper cavity of the shell above the posterior plate ; abductor muscle submarginal, horse-shoe-shaped ? ; foot oblong, rounded at each end.

The description of the animal is imperfect, being taken from a dried specimen softened by being soaked in a weak solution of caustic potash, and then placed in weak spirits.

This genus is evidently allied to *Ancylus*, but differs in the shell being more Nerite-like, and in the aperture of respiration being placed on the right side.

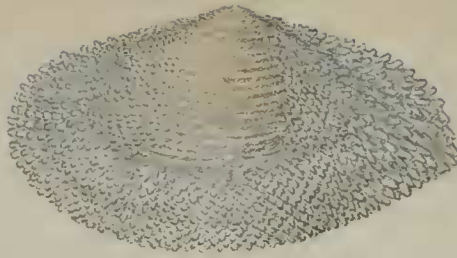
LATIA NERITOIDES.

Pale brown, spirally striated, internal lamina white, transparent.

Hab. Auckland, New Zealand.

Dr. Sinclair sent some specimens of this shell to the British Museum, with animals dried in them, in 1847, and Major Greenwood has kindly sent two additional specimens.





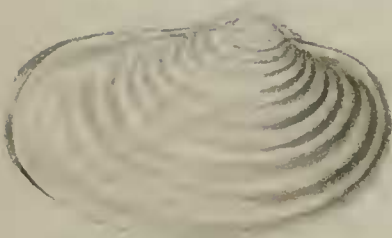
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1. *TELLINA SQUAMULOSA*. 2. 3. & 4. *GEOMELANIA JAMAICENSIS*.
 5. *PANOPEA JAPONICA*. 6. *SANGUINOLARIA TELLINOIDES*.
 7. *THRACIA MAGNIFICA*. Jonas.

LITTORINIDÆ.

Amnicola? *antipodarum*, Gray, *Fauna New Zeal.* 241. n. 101.
Auckland, New Zealand; *Major Greenwood*.

Amnicola? *Zelandiæ*, Gray, *Fauna New Zeal.* 241. n. 102.
Auckland, New Zealand; *Major Greenwood*.

Amnicola? n. sp.

A single specimen, not in a good state.

Auckland, New Zealand; *Major Greenwood*.

Major Greenwood also sent two specimens of a marine shell. He observes, that it was "entirely enveloped by the animal when alive." It proved a new species of *Lamellaria*.

LAMELLARIA OPHIONE.

Shell oblong, elongate, pellucid, white; spire very short, conical; whorls convex, last whorl very large, convex, rather iridescent; aperture ovate; pillar-lip curved, slightly reflexed.

Auckland, New Zealand.

2. ON THE ANIMAL OF GEOMELANIA. BY ARTHUR ADAMS, R.N., F.L.S. ETC.

(Mollusca, Pl. VI. figs. 2, 3, 4.)

An examination of the animal of *Geomelania Jamaicensis*, Pfeiffer (which the kindness of Mr. Cuming has allowed me to make), shows it to belong to the family of Looping-Snails, *Truncatellidæ* of Gray; in fact, it differs in no respect from the animal of *Truncatella*.

The tentacles are short, conical and depressed, with the eyes large, black, and sessile on the middle of the upper surface of their base; the head terminates anteriorly in a broad, flattened bilobate proboscis, as long as the tentacles; and the foot is short, depressed, and divided by a deep groove from the head, bearing on its upper hind surface a horny, simple, thin, oval operculum, with the apex slightly spiral, and the nucleus subterminal. The order, which consists of the genera *Truncatella*, *Skenea*, *Geomelania*, and possibly *Acicula* and *Assimineæ*, differs from the *Cyclostomidæ* in the position of the eyes and the short depressed tentacles; and would seem to be placed most naturally between *Auriculidæ* and *Cyclostomidæ*. By means of *Rissoa* and *Hydrobia* it has also relations with *Littorinidæ*; *Truncatella* resembling the former and *Assimineæ* the latter genus. In habits they are amphibious.

3. DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW SPECIES OF SHELLS FROM THE CUMINGIAN COLLECTION. BY ARTHUR ADAMS, F.L.S.

1. *TELLINA SQUAMULOSA*. (Mollusca, Pl. VI. fig. 1.) *T. testâ transversâ, æquilaterali, albâ, concentricè in medio plicatâ, plicis angulatis subdistantibus, interstitiis longitudinaliter striatis; regionibus lateralibus squamulis spinosis, regione ventrali*

squamulis verrucosis obsitâ; latere antico rotundato, postico subflexuoso rostrato; areâ sulco impressâ; margine ventrali convexo, posticè subflexuoso.

Hab. in littoribus Australiæ.

Shell transverse, equilateral, white, transversely concentrically plicated in the middle; plicæ rather wide apart and angulated; interstices longitudinally striated; ventral region and both extremities covered with scales, spinose at each end and wart-like in the middle.

Hab. Cape York, North Australia; collected by J. B. Jukes, Esq.

2. *SANGUINOLARIA TELLINOIDES.* (Mollusca, Pl. VI. fig. 6.)

S. testâ transversâ, inæquilaterâ, utrinque hiantè, rubiginosâ, tenui, lævi, striis transversis concentricis radiatim lineolatâ; latere antico latiore, rotundato; postico angustiore, rotundato, subrostrato; areâ laterali lined latâ impressâ; margine ventrali convexo, posticè valdè sinuato.

Hab. in Sinu Californiæ.

Shell inequilateral, gaping at both ends, rubiginose, thin, smooth, with transverse concentric striæ and longitudinal fine radiating lines; anterior side the widest and rounded, posterior side narrowest, round and somewhat beaked; lateral area with a depression extending from the umbo to the ventral margin; ventral margin convex, strongly sinuated posteriorly.

Hab. Gulf of California.

3. *PANOPEA JAPONICA,* A. Adams. (Mollusca, Pl. VI. fig. 5.)

Pan. testâ æquivalvi, transversâ, lateribus inæqualiter hiantè, inæquilaterâ, utrinque rotundatâ, albâ, tenui, fragili, transversim concentricè plicatâ, plicis subdistantibus rotundatis; latere antico breviorè, postico duplo ferè anticum superante; margine ventrali arcuato, integro.

Hab. Japoniam.

4. DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS *THRACIA.*

BY DR. JONAS. COMMUNICATED BY H. CUMING, ESQ.

THRACIA MAGNIFICA, Jonas. (Mollusca, Pl. VI. fig. 7.) *Th.*

testâ ovato-oblongâ, transversâ, inæquivalvi, lacted; utrinque rotundatâ; lateribus hiantè; valvâ dextrâ ventricosiore et majore quam sinistrâ; latere antico flexuoso, posteriore brevi, obliquè carinato, transversim corrugato-plicatâ, plicis subdistantibus concentricis longitudinaliter radiatim granulato-striatâ, margine neutrali arcuato anticè subsinuato.

Hab. —?

5. NOTICE OF A HYBRID CROWNED-PIGEON, HATCHED IN THE MENAGERIE. BY D. W. MITCHELL, SEC. Z.S. ETC. ETC.

The habits of so singular a form as the Crowned-Pigeon possess an interest, which will, I believe, be a sufficient apology for my desire to make some record of the first instance of its successful nidification in